

Executive Registry

Lee Cherne



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March 24, 1982

Dear Bill:

This is a follow up on our telephone conversation of yesterday. I spoke to Elliot Abrams and suggested the quick addition to the team observing the election in El Salvador of the following people:

Al Shanker, President
American Federation of Teachers

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, Director Interreligious Affairs
American Jewish Committee

Rita Freedman, Executive Director
Social Democrats, USA

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Head
Appeal to Conscience Foundation

Tom Kahn, Assistant to the President,
AFL/CIO

and Max Lerner.

Abrams was enthusiastic about the additions, the broadening of the spectrum. He said he would run with it immediately and seek to widen the official U.S. delegation from 5 to 10 to include them as well as make all necessary arrangements, including inviting them. Time is short and the ball is in his court.

I talked to Anne Armstrong afterward. Her concern was not the individuals, but the funding. I agreed to talk to Abrams today about seeking Ford Foundation participation to broaden the spectrum of private funding. She was, however, very enthusiastic about the additional participants.

Hon. William J. Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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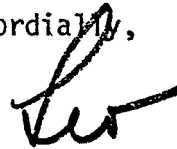
Hon. William J. Casey

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I also talked to her at length about the Peter O'Donnell stimulated idea of the briefings, recommending a number of business, academic and communications people for the first briefing. She has the list and I indicated my reservation about this being a continuing effort with additional individuals and my concern about two things. Subsequent lists will not be as distinguished since the first group will take the cream off the available and appropriate people and I have some anxiety about the intelligence community's being involved in what may be seen as an effort to stimulate a domestic propagandizing effort. There is a sensitivity on this score which includes not only foreign intelligence but also foreign broadcasting and related activities which we must not seem to ignore. Next steps are in Anne Armstrong's court.

Cordially,



Leo Cherne

P.S. Since dictating the above, I have had a call from Elliott Abrams to say he has talked to the relevant people in State. Their reaction was (1) it is too late, (2) to add names now suggests panic, (3) there is no need in the first place because ample balance of the observer group is provided by Clark Kerr and Father Hesburgh. I agreed and that is it on that one. I did, however, suggest he keep those names in mind for future occasions.

Because of Anne Armstrong's emphasis of the funding, I raised that with him and he agreed it was all of one character and I suggested he contact the Human Rights Division of the Ford Foundation even though, as he explained, there is no money need of any kind. Nevertheless, for ideological balance, he conceded it would be useful no matter how small a grant, or even a rejected request.

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